

Charles Smith to George Washington, September 18, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM CAPTAIN CHARLES SMITH.

FORT LOUDOUN Sepr. 18 1758

DR. SIR,

Your Letter of the 12th, came safe to Hand. According to Your Desire I Immediately sent the Inclos'd Down to hardwick —

I have Imploy'd a man of Skill to Assist me in Doing the stone worke of ye. Bastiane which I am affraid it will be a very Troublesom undertakeing as all the old work must be Taken away & new Pillars rais'd, you may be sure there is no Soldier here fit for Duty but what is kept constantly at Labour to keep things in Repair —

Now I have wrote to Saml Givings for the Brand & marques of your Black Mare, & then will take Every Method, I can to get them. I will Advertise them at Every Publick Place, I can think off —

The Horse that Burris rode Down is a Light bay about 14 Hands high, favours a horse I have seen you have no brand's, only some white hairs Groing on the top of his Neck the Reason of my Stoping him — Burris first told me he was Your's & you Lent him & afterwards Offered him for Sale, hardwick says he Does not know him to be Yours —

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Your Peter has mended very Little since my Last but is able to do some small Trifles in the Shop

Hardwick has been a Speaking to me that he is Realy Intended to Leave Your Inploy as soon as his time is up — Your Waggoner John behaves Extreemly ill, & Consults his own Interest more than Yours —

I have got one of your waggons & Neagre [nigger] addam to Drive for the Publick, & some Imploy I get about Town that is when it can be spard from the Quarter —

As there is many of the officers Looses men by Desertion, Writes to me Desireing, to Advertise them at £2 Reward, I must Certainly pay Ye. Money when any Soldier Deliver'd to me as a Deserter, & they haveing my Advertisement I take a Receipt for the money I advance that I know, but I should be vastly oblige to you for your advice, in Leting me know, how I Shall be Repaid; as I have sent Advertisemts. to all Parts of Virga. & some to North Carrolina this I look upon to be my Duty when Requir'd for the good of the publick, I Receive one of the Ist. Virga. Regt. Deserter from Lieut King's Commd. of the 10th. & 3 belonging to the north Carolina Detachment (that Scoundral) Hansley after being pardin'd Deserted Last night as I am in a Hurry, of writeing an answer to the Governour's Letter I hope you will Excuse my not sending you the weekly Returnes, but there is nothing happened Extraordenory Since my Last only Receivd. 4 Deserters, hansley Deserted & one Dead of the old Regt. —

it make our Duty Very hard to keep so many Prisoners I think it would be very Advisable to Clap them to Labour as there is a Nessaity at this time —

Mr. Rutherford will have about, 30, or 40, Waggons Ready to start from this Place of the 22d. Loaded with Flwor & Forrage, but is at a Loss what to do for a Guard of Men if you think Proper I can spare the 20 Raingers as far as pierce halls, but must have your advice in this Case —

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I have Inclos'd my Pay Role for the Month of Augt. for Subsistance & Working Pay, concludeing myself as SuperIntendent of the Publick work — there is David Davis of Colo: Stephen's Compn. Richd. Trotter of Capt. Woodward's Compy. has not Receivd. any Subsistence for — 6 Months, Past, I Did not know if it was Advisable or not to Put them in my Pay Roles or not, but have at the bottom — without you spake to Mr. Boyd Concerning the men that is Join'd me sence your Departure he will not send whats Due to them —

As Mr. Redeford¹ has Aplied to me for a Guard to go up with the Waggon's as Lord Fairfax deny's sending One of the Militia & the teams Lying here at Expence Loaded with forrage I thought its Nessasary for the good of the Service to Send Express to You to know if I am to Send the 20 Rangers that is under my Command as far as Piercealls Or not I beg for an imediate Answer as the Waggon's Lyes here upon Expence

The Express from Alexandria has not Return'd as Yet I am Dear Sir

Your Very Humble. Servt. CHS. SMITH

¹ Rutherford.